

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 6-10, 12 and 14-17 are pending in the present application. Claim 13 has been cancelled and claims 1, 3, 7, 9, 14 and 17 have been amended by the present Amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1-4, 6-10, 12, 13 and 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Humpleman et al.; claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Humpleman et al. in view of Kanevsky et al.; and claims 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Humpleman et al. in view of Kanevsky et al. and Ando et al.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

Claims 1-4, 6-10, 12, 13 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Humpleman et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 includes a combination of elements and has been amended to recite that the method includes receiving an appliance characteristics data stream from the home network appliances connected to a home network, reading an appliance type identifier for indicating a type of each home network appliance connected to the home network and an appliance inherent identifier of the home network appliance, from the received appliance characteristics data stream, and generating an appliance identifier by linking the read appliance type identifier with the read appliance inherent identifier. Independent claim 7 includes similar features in a varying scope. Independent claim 13 has been canceled.

These features are supported at least by Figure 5, page 7, line 11 to page 8, line 1, and page 8, lines 8-13. For example, Figure 5 illustrates the Boudoir (#1) including an appliance type identifier F.N1 for indicating a type of each of home network appliance connected to the home network and an appliance inherent identifier UDN1 of the home network appliance. A second appliance type identifier F.N2 and the appliance inherent identifier UDN2 are also shown for the Boudoir (#1). Further, an appliance identifier is generated by linking the appliance type identifier with the read appliance inherent identifier. Thus, a room including multiple air conditioners having a same appliance type identifier are distinguished from one another, because the appliance type identifier is linked with the appliance inherent identifier.

On the contrary, Humpleman et al. merely discloses connecting first and second home devices to a home network, receiving user interface data at the first home device via the home network from the second home device, displaying the user interface data defined by the user interface data on the first home device, and controlling the second home device by sending control and command information from the first home device to the second home device based on the user input. Humpleman et al. also disclose an icon image file containing an image of the device or a symbol that represents the type of device, and grouping the device images 602 and logo 604 (see paragraphs [0079] and [0104]).

However, Humpleman et al. does not teach or suggest linking an appliance type identifier with an appliance inherent identifier to generate an appliance identifier as in the present invention. Humpleman et al. also does not teach or suggest receiving an appliance characteristic data stream in which the appliance type identifier and the appliance inherent identifier are read. That is, Humpleman et al. merely allows a user to define the arrangement of the device images

602 and logo 604 on the device link page 606 according to his/her own criteria (see Figure 7, for example).

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 7 and each claim dependent therefrom are allowable.

Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Humpleman et al. in view of Kanevsky et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 14 is a dependent claim. Further, Kanevsky et al. also does not teach or suggest the features recited in independent claim 1. Therefore, it is respectfully requested this rejection also be withdrawn.

Claims 15 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Humpleman et al. in view of Kanevsky et al. and Ando et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is respectfully submitted that this rejection has also been overcome as claims 15 and 16 are dependent claims and Kanevsky et al. and Ando et al. also do not teach or suggest the features recited in the independent claims. That is, Kanevsky et al. merely discloses a display terminal for providing a graphical user interface (GUI) and a means for generating a cluster of items including graphical or textural elements for display via the GUI. Ando et al. also only discloses mutually connecting a plurality of appliances to a network, and receiving state information indicative of operating state changes of the appliances.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted this rejection has also been overcome.

CONCLUSION

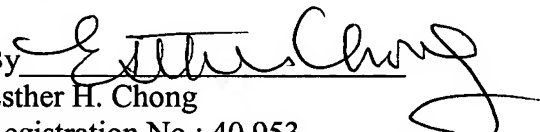
For the foregoing reasons and in view of the above clarifying amendments, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw all of the objections and rejections of record, and to provide an early issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters which need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact David A. Bilodeau (Registration No. 42,325) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: July 27, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Esther H. Chong
Registration No.: 40,953
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant